

American Antiquarian Society.
Worcester, Mass.
Proceedings

1852

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

IN WORCESTER, OCTOBER 23, 1852.



WORCESTER:
PRINTED BY HENRY J. HOWLAND,
199 Main Street.

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ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 23, 1852,
AT ANTIQUARIAN HALL, IN WORCESTER.

Hon. John Davis, Vice President, in the chair.

The Recording Secretary read the record of the proceedings of the last meeting.

The Report of the Council to the Society, and those of the Treasurer, the Librarian, and the Committee of Publication, were severally read.

Voted, That the Reports of the Council and the Librarian be referred to the Council, that they may publish such parts thereof as to them may seem proper; and that the Report of the Treasurer be referred to an Auditing Committee.

Hon. Isaac Davis was chosen a Committee to audit the the account of the Treasurer.

Voted, That the Report of the Chairman of the Committee of Publication on the memoir of Mr. Lapham, relative to the aboriginal antiquities of Wisconsin, be referred back to that Committee, with a view to its publication, in such form, and connected with such other matter, as they deem proper; and that the whole subject of preparing a revised copy of the memoir, and also an abstract of its contents, be left to their discretion and disposal.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of officers for the ensuing year.

Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas, and Hon. Isaac Davis, were chosen a Committee to nominate candidates for the several offices; and reported the following list.

President.

HON. EDWARD EVERETT, LL. D., of Cambridge.

Vice Presidents.

HON. JOHN DAVIS, LL. D., of Worcester.

REV. WILLIAM B. SPRAGUE, D. D., of Albany, N. Y.

Council.

HON. LEVI LINCOLN, LL. D.,	of Worcester.
REV. CHARLES LOWELL, D. D.,	" Cambridge.
FREDERIC WILLIAM PAINE, Esq.,	" Worcester.
JOSEPH WILLARD, Esq.,	" Boston.
HON. EMORY WASHBURN,	" Worcester.
HON. STEPHEN SALISBURY,	" Worcester.
HON. ISAAC DAVIS,	" Worcester.
JOHN GREEN, M. D.,	" Worcester.
REV. EDWARD E. HALE,	" Worcester.
HON. CHARLES SUMNER,	" Boston.

Secretary of Foreign Correspondence.

JARED SPARKS, LL. D., of Cambridge.

Secretary of Domestic Correspondence.

HON. BENJAMIN F. THOMAS, of Worcester.

Recording Secretary.

HON. REJOICE NEWTON, of Worcester.

Treasurer.

SAMUEL JENNISON, Esq., of Worcester.

Committee of Publication.

SAMUEL F. HAVEN, Esq., of Worcester.
 REV. EDWARD E. HALE, " Worcester.
 GEORGE LIVERMORE, Esq., " Cambridge.

The Librarian read a communication from Hon. Ira M. Barton, of Worcester, presenting to the Society copies of the portraits of Columbus and Americus Vesputius, from paintings in the Royal or Bourbon Museum at Naples.

Voted, That the Society gratefully accept said portraits, and tender to Judge Barton their thanks for so valuable a present.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

So few changes have taken place in the affairs of the Society since the last report of the Council, that the present one must necessarily be brief.

The Reports of the Treasurer and Librarian, which accompany this, will exhibit the condition of those departments of the Society's affairs in a satisfactory manner.

By the former, it will appear that there has been expended, within the last six months, the sum of \$6582,27, of which \$5895,27 consists of payments on account of their new Hall, leaving in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$28981,24, including the sum of \$5000, recently contributed, in so generous a manner, by the Hon. Stephen Salisbury.

A balance of two hundred dollars has been paid to I. A. Lapham, Esq., for his services and expenses in making

explorations of interesting localities of Mounds and other aboriginal works within the State of Wisconsin.

An account of these explorations will be found embodied in a report of the Committee of Publication, and there is, therefore, no occasion to add any thing on the part of the Council, beyond the remark, that the labors of Mr. Lapham in the field in which he has been employed, have been quite satisfactory in their results, and evince on his part a commendable zeal, fidelity, and good judgment, in their pursuit.

The Library has been gradually increasing in the number of its volumes, and value and amount of its materials; and, with the new facilities and accommodations, which will be furnished in the beautiful and commodious Hall now in progress of erection, will become an object of more general interest and attraction, even, than it has hitherto been.

The Council are reasonably assured that this Hall will be completed and ready for use before the recurrence of the next semi-annual meeting of the Society, and that it will be found to meet the expectations of those who planned and designed it. It already presents, in its exterior, a structure which for fitness and severe architectural taste, must commend itself to the approbation of the Society. It will, it is believed, sustain the reputation of Mr. Tefft, the architect, for skill in his profession, and bear testimony to the fidelity which the Committee, who have it in charge, have devoted to the duty entrusted to them.

The dedication of this Hall to its intended use, when completed, will doubtless furnish an occasion, which the Society will consider as fit to be commemorated, in a manner to awaken a renewed interest in the ends and purposes for which the founders and patrons of the institution have labored in its establishment and growth.

The uses and designs of such an association, have at all

times an interest for reflective minds. Dealing with the past, and living, in a measure, in its history, they have in the contemplation of its fixed and sober realities, an ever ready resource, when tired of the changing, fitful phases of passing events.

And this is perhaps more than ordinarily striking, during a season of excitement like that through which we are now passing. Fortunately, our history as a state or a nation, has thus far falsified the forebodings which such a season of high political excitement is always sure to awaken. Passion is sure to subside, reason to take the place of intemperate zeal, and the man-worship of the hour gives way to a regard for something more worthy of the character of a free and intelligent people. History, with an almost unerring test, separates and distinguishes whatever is worthy of being preserved, from the mass of falsehood and delusion, which is so strongly mixed up with, and gives color to, the present hour.

It is pleasant to turn from the abuse and misrepresentation, to which every candidate for political honors is subjected while living, to that noble array of public men, whose names add a lustre to the annals of our country. Here, at least, we may find something like reputation above the reach of calumny. Such men have left monuments to mark them, and happy will it be, if when History takes in charge the prominent men of this day, it shall find them as deserving of the respect of the future, as the great men of the past of our country have been of the veneration of the passing age.

One of our own number, who has held places of honorable trust and responsibility, has, since our last semi-annual report, been removed from these exciting scenes of passing life, and left behind him the assurance of an honored memory.

The Hon. ALFRED DWIGHT FOSTER was born at Brookfield, July 26, 1800. His ancestors had been, for at least two generations, distinguished in the civil history of Massachusetts. Jedediah Foster, his grandfather, was born in Andover, studied law, and established himself in his profession in Brookfield.

He married a daughter of Gen. Joseph Dwight, for many years an eminent military officer, and who subsequently held distinguished civil offices. At the capture of Louisburg, in 1745, he commanded the artillery forces of Massachusetts. At the time of the marriage of his daughter, he resided in Brookfield, but at a subsequent period removed to Berkshire County, where he died.

Mr. Foster, in 1775, was appointed Judge of Probate and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Worcester. In 1776, he was promoted to the Bench of the Superior Court, and held the latter office till his death, in 1779.

Of his sons, Theodore was graduated at Brown University, and from 1790 to 1803, represented the State of Rhode Island in the Senate of the United States. Dwight, another of these sons, was born in 1758. He was graduated at Brown University, studied the profession of law, and established himself in business in Brookfield. During the years 1792 and 3, he held the office of Sheriff of the County of Worcester. In 1792 he was elected to Congress, and held the office during three successive terms. Subsequently, he was a Senator in Congress for the term of three years, and for many years Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Worcester. At a later period in life, he was a member of the Executive Council. He died in 1832, at the age of 65. He left a daughter, now the widow of the late Samuel M. Burnside, Esq., and two sons, one of whom was the subject of this notice.

At the age of fifteen Alfred Dwight Foster entered Harvard University, and was graduated in 1819 with a good reputation for scholarship. He studied the profession of the law with Mr. Burnside, and was admitted to the Bar in 1822. He remained in Brookfield till the decease of his father, when he removed to Worcester. After practising his profession about two years, he abandoned it altogether. From that time till his death, though never seeking office, he was almost constantly employed in places of public trust and responsibility. The fidelity and ability with which he served his adopted town as a member of the Board of Selectmen, as one of the School Committee, and as a Representative in the General Court, was felt and acknowledged by all its citizens.

Nor was his sphere of public duties limited to a single town. He was a member of the Executive Council during the years 1842, '44 and '45, and of the Senate in 1848. In his connexion with literary and benevolent institutions, his services, though less conspicuous and little calculated to bring him before the public observation, were of a most valuable character.

Without attempting to enumerate these, we may allude to one or two of the more prominent ones. He was one of the original Board of Trust of the State Lunatic Hospital, and for fourteen years held the office of Treasurer of that Institution. And it is not too much to say that few did more, originally, than he to give effect and character to that noble charity of which Massachusetts is so justly proud.

When the plan of founding an Institution for the reform of the Young which was afterwards established at Westboro', was undertaken, Mr. Foster was one of the earliest and most efficient promoters of the scheme. He was made the confidential medium through whom the great benefactor of that institution, the late Gen. Lyman, communicated his

munificent proposals in its favor to the Legislature. He was placed at the head of a commission to fix a locality for the proposed School of Reform, and as the head of another Board of Commissioners had the charge and superintendence of the plan and erection of its buildings.

For the term of sixteen years he was one of the Trustees of Leicester Academy, and for fourteen a Trustee of Amherst College. He was also for many years an active and valuable member of the Massachusetts Board of Education.

His connexion with the American Antiquarian Society began, as a member, in 1831. From '32 to '43 he was one of its Committee of Publication. In 1843, he was chosen a member of the Council, and, from that time till his death, served the Society in that capacity with great fidelity and devotion to its interests. For the years '43, '44 and '45 he was, moreover, Treasurer of the Society. And in all his relations to it he was its efficient patron and friend, to the value of whose services his associates in the Council are happy to bear an unqualified testimony.

He died Aug. 15, 1852. An interesting discourse upon his life and character, delivered by the Rev. Dr. Smalley the Sabbath after his decease, has been published, and renders any extended sketch of either of those unnecessary.

Indeed, the life of such a man has little of public incident to give interest to a biographical sketch. He had a finely cultivated mind, disciplined by study and enriched with various knowledge. His style, as a writer, was neat, strong and clear, and in whatever he said or wrote he was earnest, truthful and sincere. No one could more readily detect the false guise which others might assume, while on the other hand no one could ever mistake his own real sentiments or feelings upon any subject on which he had occasion to express them. As a counsellor, therefore, he was

sagacious and faithful, and his ready sympathies and strong common sense made him a safe and reliable one to follow.

And yet, a natural timidity and self distrust, which rather seemed to strengthen, than otherwise, as he advanced in life, prevented his exercising that influence upon the community around him, which his talents and wisdom and other fine powers qualified him to exert.

There was nothing, however, like timidity or hesitation in his course where duty pointed his way. At such times the world's frown or the popular sneer had no terrors for him, nor did he shrink from exposing, and often in terms of indignant eloquence, vice, or sophistry, or falsehood, in whatever quarter they were detected.

In private and domestic life few were freer from faults. Faithful and sincere as a friend, upright and honest in all his transactions, and unwavering in his integrity in all things, he passed through life without doing justice to his own unconscious powers, but acting up in all things to the highest claims of conscience and duty upon his judgment and understanding.

Had his true merits been more publicly known, there might have been less occasion for the Council to do justice to his memory, by any remarks upon his life and character on this occasion. But knowing him as they did, they could not have done justice to their appreciation of his services and his worth by a less explicit declaration than they thus offer to the Society.

It has not been customary for the Council to notice in these reports the decease of members beyond those engaged in the immediate government of its affairs, but they cannot forbear departing so far from former usages as to allude briefly to the death of another of its members—the **HON. JOHN W. LINCOLN.** He died, at the age of sixty-five years, on the 2d day of the current month. He was born

and educated and has always lived amongst us, and during his connexion with this Society has been an earnest and faithful promoter of its interests.

During a large share of his life he had been employed in places of honor and responsibility, and in none did he ever fail to meet public expectation. In the affairs of his own town there was scarcely an office which he was not, at some time, called to fill. In those, as well as in the more extended duties of County Commissioner, Senator and Sheriff of the County, he commanded the respect and confidence of even his bitterest opponents.

For sound practical judgment, few were his superiors. For stern integrity and firmness of purpose, none could well surpass him.

His memory is gratefully cherished by all who knew him, and this passing tribute to his character may serve to record the high estimation which the Council entertain towards an eminent and honored citizen, who after a long and painful period of suffering has passed away from amongst us.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Council,

EMORY WASHBURN.

ACCOUNT OF THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer of the American Antiquarian Society, in account with the Society, charges himself with the balance of Funds invested and cash on hand April 16, 1852,

The sum of	-	-	-	-	-	\$29,118,74
Since which time he has received of	}					5,000,00
Hon. Stephen Salisbury his donation of						
For mortgage on Estate in Middlebury,	-					494,92
For Interest and Dividends,	-	-	-			949,85
						<hr/> \$35,563,51

And is credited, for expen-

ses paid Mr. Haven, - - - 56,58

For expenses for Binding

to A. Hutchinson, - - - 26,00

For Printing, to H. J. Howland, 37,34

For Interest on money borrowed, 3,83

To S. F. Haven, Esq. to 6 mo. salary, 360,00

Expenses on acc. of New Hall, 5,895,27

6,379,02

Paid for advertising, 3,25

Paid I. Lapham for Survey, &c.

in Wisconsin, - - - 200,00

\$6,582,27

By notes secured by mortgages, &c. - 19,050,00

By Bank Stock, - - - - 7,500,00

By Cash, - - - - 2,431,24

\$35,563,51

In Worcester Bank, - . - 2,137,08

In Treasurer's hands, - - 294,16

\$2,431,24

SAMUEL JENNISON, *Treasurer.*

Oct. 16, 1852.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

Contributions to the Collections of the Society, since April of this year, have been received from sources of which the following is a list. .

- Edward Jarvis, M. D., Dorchester.
- Nath'l. B. Shurtleff, Boston.
- The City of Boston.
- Rev. Preston Cummings, Leicester.
- Henry Gassett, Esq., Boston.
- Prof. Forrest Shepherd, Western Reserve Coll. Ohio.
- The Earl of Ellesmere, Great Britain.
- The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The American Peace Society.
- Horace Foot, Esq., Springfield.
- Hon. John W. Lincoln, Worcester.
- Thomas Prince, Boston.
- The Trustees of the State Library, N. Y.
- The Boston Mercantile Library Association.
- The Treasurer of the Boston Mercantile Library Association.
- Congress of U. S.
- Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, Boston.
- Rev. Alonzo Hill, Worcester.
- The Regents of the University of New York.
- Hon. Rejoice Newton, Worcester.
- The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
- Hon. Charles Allen, Worcester.
- President Jared Sparks, Harvard University.
- Rev. Romeo Elton, East Hartford, Conn.
- The New York Historical Society.

The Maryland Historical Society.
 The New Jersey Historical Society.
 Hon. Mark Doolittle, Belchertown.
 Hon. Edward Everett, Cambridge.
 George Livermore, Esq., “
 Samuel A. Green, Groton.
 Rev. T. W. Higginson, Newburyport.
 Prof. Edward North, Hamilton Coll., N. Y.
 The Connecticut Historical Society.
 The Massachusetts Historical Society.
 Hon. Stephen Salisbury, Worcester.
 The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston.
 The Librarian.
 John M. Galt, M. D., Williamsburg, Va.
 The University of Albany, N. Y.
 Rev. George Richards, Boston.
 Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas, Worcester.
 I. A. Lapham, Esq., Milwaukee, Wis.
 L. W. Leonard, Peterborough, N. H.
 Peter Force, Esq., Washington, D. C.
 Martyn Payne, M. D., New York.
 The New York Lyceum of Natural History.
 Moses G. Thomas, New Bedford.
 Rev. James Davie Butler, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 C. E. Potter, Esq., Manchester, N. H.
 Freeman Hunt, Esq., New York.
 The Publishers of the Boston Semi-Weekly Courier.
 The Publishers of the Christian Watchman and Reflector.
 The Publishers of the Worcester Spy.
 The Publishers of the Worcester National Ægis.
 The Publishers of the Fitchburg Sentinel.
 The number of volumes received is one hundred and
 sixty-seven, and the number of pamphlets eight hundred
 and thirty-eight.

There has also been received for the cabinet an embalmed Ibis, from the Catacombs of Egypt, presented by Rev. Romeo Elton, now residing in England.

Respectfully submitted,

S. F. HAVEN, Librarian.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

The results of Mr. Lapham's explorations and surveys of the aboriginal antiquities of Wisconsin have been examined by the Committee to whom they were referred.

They consist of a descriptive Memoir, illustrated by fifty-three large drawings or plates, adapted to the size of the Smithsonian publications, and ninety-seven figures, or smaller designs, intended to be interspersed with the text.

The traces of Indian art, in all other portions of the United States east of the Mississippi, and to some extent beyond that river, have heretofore been carefully investigated; and have been described and delineated with great particularity in the transactions of this Institution, and in other scientific publications.

The region between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi had, in the meantime, been comparatively unexplored for such purposes; although known to present some peculiar features, and to possess remains of a singular and distinctive character.

Elaborate works of defence, and such as are apparently designed for religious or sacrificial ceremonies, so numerous in other sections of country, are seldom found in Wisconsin. On the other hand, less elevated structures, though often on

a scale of considerable horizontal extent, representing a variety of fanciful forms, abound along the courses of the streams, and by the borders of the lakes.

The figures are described as chiefly those of Lizards, Turtles, Birds, Bears, Foxes, and Men ; combined with straight lines, angles, crosses, curves, and other simple embankments. Whatever these may have been intended to portray, there is a uniformity in their configuration which manifests that the outlines are not accidental, but possessed to their makers a distinct and definite meaning.

They appear to be confined within a limited territory, between the Mississippi and Lake Michigan ; not extending far below the southern line of Wisconsin, nor much beyond the northern extremity of Lake Winnebago ; and diminish in numbers and variety as the two last named boundaries are approached.

That they exist there, and there only, is a fact hardly less remarkable than the anomalous nature of the works themselves ; and our attention is naturally directed, in the first place, to the physical peculiarities of the region where they are found.

Mr. Lapham has judiciously prefixed to his memoir a chart of the State, exhibiting the valleys, or basins, with their dividing ridges, and the courses of the rivers, without the political divisions. Upon this the localities of the aboriginal remains are designated in their connection with the natural features of the country.

Wisconsin is marked by no great or sudden variations of surface. The hills are seldom more than gentle swells or undulations of land ; the highest ridges separating the rivers which run to Lake Superior from those that flow into the Mississippi. At certain points the waters of opposite streams sometimes mingle at high floods, and the portages are always short and easy. As the highlands are at no great dis-

tance from Lake Superior, the currents in that direction are swift, and often broken by falls and rapids. Rapids are also found in the upper portions of other streams descending from different sources. But, in general, the flow of the rivers is even and sluggish, expanding, especially on the eastern side of the State, into a profusion of shallow basins, or forming lakes of larger dimensions. Springing from cold and limpid fountains, they are free from miasma, and are exuberant with wholesome animal life. The fishes are of the finest flavor; and the wild rice that chokes the shallower and lines the borders of the deeper waters, affords sustenance to myriads of aquatic birds and beasts, that fatten upon the abundance of nutritious aliment.

Passing from rivers to lakes, and from lakes to other rivers, the savage in his canoe might, with slight portages, thread the whole region, east, west, north, and south. Gathering the heads of rice into his boat, as it glided with the current, he lazily reaped his harvest of grain. The smallest exertion provided his repast of fish or game; while the fur-bearing animals were diving and swimming around him at every turn.

Even the most wet and marshy districts are said to be unproductive of fogs or humid exhalations. The air is clear, dry, and healthful; the climate milder than that of the interior of New York; both summer and winter are tempered by the vicinity of the great lakes; and the seasons and the soil are favorable to vegetation.

Early and recent explorers seem to have been equally impressed with the beauty and productiveness of the country. La Hontan and Charlevoix describe its appearance and capacities in glowing terms. Carver mentions Green bay as surrounded by the verdure and vegetation of summer, when but a fortnight before, at Michillimacinae, the trees had not begun to bud; and says the

name of the bay is derived from the verdancy of its scenery.* Governor Cass, in 1820, and Major Long, in 1823, bore similar testimony. But all fall short of the enthusiasm of a recent English traveller, Captain Mackinnon, who transcends the soberness of prose in his account of the neighborhood of Lake Winnebago; compared with which he pronounces that the most elaborate and cultivated scenery of Europe falls into insignificance. "I was struck", he continues, "with astonishment, that such a 'garden of Eden' should be so little known even in the Eastern States—that such extraordinary advantages should be neglected. After a careful examination of many places in the western portion of the United States, I advisedly assert that Lake Winnebago district is the most desirable and the finest in the world for emigrants."†

It may be assumed, therefore, that the seat of these remarkable works is well adapted to the support of a numerous population, supplying, as it does, the elements of savage comfort, and even luxury, without the necessity of laborious exertion, or distant wanderings from fixed abodes. A nation so located, sheltered on three sides by great bodies of water, and favored with such facilities for interior communication, we should expect to see maintaining its independence, prospering from its native resources, and cultivating arts or founding institutions peculiar to itself. Yet, the pictorial monuments excepted, no distinctive relics have been discovered in that region. Indications of a higher and more systematic method of agriculture than is usual

* Mr. Lapham derives the name of "Green Bay" from the color of its waters. Other writers (we think without sufficient authority,) call it a corruption of "La Grand Baie". The name applied by the French and used in the early maps was "Puant" (*fetid*.) said to have been a mis-translation of the Indian term.

† Atlantic and Trans-Atlantic Sketches, by Capt. Mackinnon, R. N. 1852.

with mere savages, are mentioned by Mr. Lapham ; but these "garden beds", as they are termed, exist more extensively in Michigan and Indiana.* The remains of edifices, and of fortified villages, and other evidences of social improvement, are wanting ; and, thus far, both household utensils and implements used in the chase, are more frequently disinterred from the rougher soil of New England.

We are, in fact, almost prompted to conjecture that the peculiar monuments of Wisconsin may have had an origin not connected with habitancy, but arising from other and very different circumstances.

Next, in the order of inquiry, to the nature of the country, are the condition and character of its earliest known inhabitants.

Though one of the youngest States, Wisconsin is among the oldest historical regions of the Union. Before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, the French missionaries were ascending the Ottawa River from the St. Lawrence, and advancing towards the Great Lakes ; and before Boston was settled they had established posts in the neighborhood of Lake Michigan. With some interruptions, occasioned, in one case, by the first surrender of Canada to the English, and in another by the devastations of savage warfare, the missionary stations of the Jesuits and Franciscans were maintained, and extended, along the upper lakes. In 1639, Nicholet, the interpreter, explored Green Bay, ascended Fox River, and embarked on the Wisconsin. Thirty-four years later, Marquette and Jolliet, following in his steps, completed the discovery and exploration of the Mississippi. Thus the rivers and lakes of Wisconsin were made memorable by first opening the way to the interior of the West.

If, as has sometimes been asserted, the natural highway

* Schoolcraft's *Hist. and Prospects of the Indians*, Part 1, p. 54.

through Wisconsin, (which, communicating with the St. Lawrence on the east, and the streams beyond the Mississippi on the west, may almost be said to connect two oceans,) has been for ages the common war path of the Indian, it is a fact not without importance in the consideration of our subject, since along this route the earthworks are clustered in greatest number and variety.

In the heart of what is now the State, the earliest explorers found two somewhat anomalous tribes—the *Mulominies* or *Menomonies*, and the *Winnebagocs*—whose descendants continued to occupy the same places till supplanted by our own people. These tribes were apparently strangers and aliens in the land they possessed, and were surrounded by nations with whom they were connected but remotely, if at all. The Chippewas on the north, the Ottawas on the east, beyond Lake Michigan, the Mascontins, or Gens des Prairies, on the south, and the Sacs and Foxes on the west, were all of one stock, the Algonkin.

It has been a disputed point whether the Menomonies were not also of Algonkin origin. Charlevoix states that they were not numerous in his time; “which is to be regretted,” he subjoins, “for they are very fine men, and the best shaped in all Canada: I am assured that they have the same origin and nearly the same language as the Noquets and Saulteurs, (Chippewas), but it is added, *that they have also a particular language which they communicate to no one.*”*

Mr. Gallatin says, “their language, though of the Algonkin stock, is less similar to that of the Chippewas than almost any other dialect of the same stock. As no other tribe speaks it, and as they generally speak Chippeway, it is almost impossible to find good interpreters.”†

* Journal Historique, Letter 20.

† Trans. of Am. Antiq. Socy. vol 2.

Mr. Keating, in his narrative of Major Long's expedition, in 1823, says, that few if any white men have ever been able to learn their language, the prevailing medium of intercourse being the Chippewa, Ottawa and Pottawattamie dialects. He proceeds to say, "The few Menomonies we met with were of a light color, resembling much that of the light mulattoes in our United States. It is said that this light color, which distinguishes the Menomonies from other Indians, results from a general admixture of European blood. But we have been assured, that even when of pure Indian extraction they are of a lighter color than their neighbors, and are therefore often called the White Indians. Whether they be descendants of the Algonkins, or of a different race of men, is a question of much importance, which may perhaps be resolved by those whose opportunities of obtaining information are greater than ours were. If they be sprung from a different race, it may be questioned whether they settled here previously or subsequent to the Algonkin tribes."

It may be presumed from these statements, that any inferences respecting their origin, drawn from a vocabulary of words in use among them, must be very uncertain authority.

The *Winnebagoes*, called also Otchagras, and Pians, by the French, are classed by Mr. Gallatin with the great Sioux or Dacotah family, which occupied the western bank of the Mississippi from its source to the Arkansas river, and at some points extended back nearly to the Rocky Mountains.

Carver tells us, that while with them he employed himself in collecting the most certain intelligence of their origin, language, and customs. From these inquiries, he had reason to conclude that they originally resided in some of the provinces belonging to New Mexico; and being driven from their native country, either by intestine divisions, or the ex-

tension of the Spanish conquests, took refuge in these more northern parts. His reasons are,—“First, their unalienable attachment to the Naudowessie (Sioux) Indians, (who, they say, gave them the earliest succor during their emigration), notwithstanding their present residence is more than six hundred miles distant from that people. Secondly, that their dialect differs from that of every other Indian nation yet discovered, &c. Thirdly, from their inveterate hatred of the Spaniards.” He gives an account derived from them of excursions formerly made to the Southwest, which took up several moons; and one in particular, that occurred about forty-six winters before, in which they attacked what he supposes to have been a Spanish caravan loaded with silver.

Schoolcraft, in his narrative of Governor Cass's expedition, describes the Winnebagoes as “a savage, blood-thirsty tribe, who came many years ago from the South, and are related to some of the Mexican tribes.”

It appears, therefore, that Wisconsin, when first made known to the whites, was occupied, in part, by two tribes, not only totally distinct from one another, but differing materially, in important circumstances, from all others in their vicinity. Whether one or both of them came from portions of Mexico, and whether either of them had any relationship to the builders of the peculiar monuments, among which they lived in ignorance of their object and origin, are questions which may never be satisfactorily solved.

The supposed discovery of the remains of an ancient city in the valley of Rock river, within the territory of the Winnebagoes, at one period gave rise to much speculation, the reverse of that which would make those Indians to have been emigrants from Mexico. The name of Aztalan was given to the imaginary city, in the belief that it might be the place referred to in the traditions of the Aztecs, which represented their ancestors as coming from a country at the

north, near large bodies of water, and called Aztlan, or Atlan, from that circumstance. Later investigations, however, have not confirmed the original marvelous statements of the discoverers; and the place is chiefly to be regarded as furnishing, according to Mr. Lapham, the only instance, among the numerous works in Wisconsin, of an *inclosure* analogous to those of other States.

With the exceptions above mentioned, the native inhabitants of that region presented nothing remarkable in their history or condition to distinguish them from the great body of their race; save that they were more accustomed to the use of symbolic emblems than those of the Middle and Southern States. Pictorial writing was carried by them to a very considerable degree of perfection. By means of the forms of objects and animals, having a conventional signification, and accompanied by qualifying signs, comprehensive narratives were recorded upon bark, the minutest details of which were intelligible to the neighboring tribes, and were construed with almost equal facility by *traders* familiar with their customs. Mr. Schoolcraft has collected also specimens of pictographic notation, employed to preserve and transmit their songs and melodies.

The position of Wisconsin is worthy of notice, as of necessity a debatable ground between races always at war. With the Sioux on one side, and the Algonkins and Iroquois on the other, its occupation would be likely to be fluctuating and variable, as one party or another prevailed in the strife. It was the country through which these great divisions of the Indian race advanced to the attack or retreated from the conflict. The Iroquois, pressing also upon the Algonkins, sometimes drove them to the borders of the Sioux, from whence they were liable to be repulsed by the latter. Thus the Sacs and Foxes had retreated to the Wisconsin River from their former residence east of Lake

Michigan; and the Menomonies and Winnebagoes, since our knowledge of them, had narrowly escaped extermination from the same relentless foes.

Another circumstance of antiquarian interest is connected with the territory bordering on Lake Superior. The copper mines, that have recently attracted so much attention, are supposed to have been wrought at some distant period by the natives. It is even conjectured that they were the source of supply to the whole aboriginal population of the country; and that remote tribes were accustomed to send deputations to these localities, or obtained the metal by traffic with natives nearer the mines. Mr. Schoolcraft suggests that the region may have been consecrated to neutrality, like that of the celebrated pipestone quarries, and that parties of different tribes may have assembled there at certain seasons to procure their supplies of ore.

The Reports of Dr. Jackson, Messrs. Foster and Whitney, and others, employed by Congress as topographical and geological surveyors, afford curious accounts of the evidences of ancient operations observed by them. They found, not only masses of native copper from which portions had been rudely severed, but excavations in the solid rock, apparently wrought with great labor, with the simple implements of the savage, the tools themselves lying near in large quantities.

There may be some danger of confounding the results of the early labors of Europeans at the mines, with those of the natives. As early as 1632, the existence of the mines was known to the French; for they are mentioned in the narrative of Gabriel Sagard, printed at Paris in that year; and although they are not known to have been worked by them, yet they must have been frequently visited by their traders, who may, from time to time, have endeavored to detach from their beds some of the masses now bearing the

marks of such efforts. As the Indians would eagerly seize upon tools of iron, (even the smallest fragments of that metal, if left behind,) it is not strange that none but savage implements are discovered in the vicinity.

At any rate, at a later period, yet so long ago as 1771, an English company of miners, under Alexander Henry, was employed at the forks of the Onontagon river, near the site of the famous copper rock. After being continued about two years, these operations were abandoned, under the impression that till the country should be settled, and better means of transportation provided, the business could not be advantageously prosecuted.

With the fact before us, that more than two centuries since, when the whole civilized world was excited by expectations of mineral wealth to be drawn from all parts of this continent, and when our New England fathers, with hardly an established foothold upon the soil, were searching every portion of their own territory for mines,* the shores of Lake Superior were visited and explored by the French; while, so long as eighty-one years ago, an organized company was actually at work in that region, it may not always be easy to distinguish the operations of the unassisted Indian, anterior to the arrival of the whites, from those of later date, when the labors of the two races may have been combined or contemporaneous. Still, it is said that excavations, bearing marks of extreme antiquity not to be mistaken, are found in several localities; and that great quantities of metal must have been obtained from the surface alone; fully warranting the opinion, strengthened by native tradition, that from periods of unknown remoteness, the

* There is in one place, at least, in the interior of Massachusetts, a deep excavation in the solid rock, of whose origin no record or tradition remains, which must have been made when the region around was a continuous forest. In that instance the sulphuret of iron, there very abundant, was probably mistaken for gold.

aboriginal inhabitants of a large extent of country obtained their copper ornaments and utensils from that quarter.

Thus the territory south of Lake Superior, which includes the State of Wisconsin and a small portion of Michigan, occupies a position possessing an unusual degree of archaeological interest. It may be regarded as a natural highway from regions nearer the sea to the great valley of the interior; its striking physical features are associated with many early incidents of romantic adventure; it is the seat of mineral treasures, towards which the desires of a whole continent of barbarous tribes would converge, and may have been rendered sacred by that circumstance; and, moreover, its aboriginal monuments are anomalous and strange, approaching nearer to the aspect of hieroglyphic or symbolic characters, than to that of architectural structures. If, instead of being clustered on the surface of the earth, they had been drawn on tablets of stone, they might be taken for the records of a people whose alphabet of signs was limited and imperfect. They would, indeed, derive a superior interest from the supposition that they are memorials of conquest or defeat, understood by succeeding generations, till their traditionary sense was lost by time or calamity; or treaties of amity or alliance written upon the neutral ground where adverse nations were accustomed to meet in peace. It must be confessed that pictorial writing on so immense a scale would be a phenomenon unparalleled in monumental history.

Carver describes Prairie du Chien, near the mouth of the Wisconsin, as a great mart to which all who inhabit the adjacent country resort; and where tribes at war with each other are obliged to restrain their enmity, and to forbear all acts of hostility during their stay. What Prairie du Chien was in 1766, the entire district between the Mississippi and Lake Michigan may have been at a former period;

and, gathering there from distant abodes, the various parties perhaps encamped where the natural abundance of the country furnished means of support, while conducting their traffic with the proprietors and workers of the mines.

It is very remarkable that none of the early travellers appear to have noticed the animal shaped embankments. Yet their extent might prevent their outlines from being obvious, especially while covered with trees, or a dense growth of humbler vegetation. Carver alludes to conical mounds and parapets. Major Long, in 1823, observed remains of a similar kind. But public attention was not called to the peculiar relics of that region till it began to be explored for settlement, in 1836. In that year, Mr. Lapham claims to have first made known, through the newspapers, the existence of mounds in the form of turtles at Prairie Village (now Waukesha), and of various animal effigies in other places.

In April, 1838, a communication respecting similar figures, from Mr. R. C. Taylor, was published in Silliman's *Journal of Arts and Sciences*, accompanied by several illustrations. A more extended account was given in the same journal in 1843, with other delineations, by Mr. S. Taylor. These were followed by a brief reference to the subject in the Report of Dr. Locke on the mineral lands of the United States, printed in 1844.

Whatever information could be derived from these sources was embodied in the large work upon Indian antiquities of Messrs. Squier and Davis, published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1848.

These partial accounts served to excite curiosity, and the members of government surveying parties have since occasionally paused to take the forms and dimensions of such earth-works as came in their way; being sometimes surprised at the figures developed under their hands, which were not perceptible from a single point of view.

All whose attention had been directed to the subject, have concurred in the expression of an anxious desire that this new and curious field of archæological research should be carefully explored.

Such was the state of things when Mr. Lapham, a resident of Wisconsin, and an engineer by profession, proposed to undertake an examination and survey of the aboriginal remains of that state, on behalf of the Antiquarian Society; asking no other compensation than the payment of his necessary expenses. It cannot but be regarded as a fortunate circumstance, that so favorable an opportunity was afforded for the accomplishment of such an appropriate and useful purpose, and that the acceptance of his proposition has resulted in the accumulation of so much valuable information.

Mr. Lapham commenced his researches on the eastern borders of the State, along the shore of Lake Michigan. Then, proceeding westward, he followed up the valleys of the rivers from the southern boundary,—exploring the branches wherever signs of ancient occupation had been observed. Having reached the summit level, he pursued the course of streams running in an opposite direction towards the north. Then returning to the southwestern portions of the State, along the Mississippi, he examined the valley of the Wisconsin as far upward as the remains to be investigated were supposed to extend.

With a few unimportant exceptions, every known work, or assemblage of works, was carefully surveyed by him in person, or by competent individuals in his behalf, and their forms minutely delineated.

For greater distinctness, the more remarkable figures, and the most perfect representations of classes, are exhibited on an enlarged scale; and sections are frequently drawn to illustrate perpendicular outlines and dimensions.

As before remarked, his first illustration is a map of the

State, on a scale of eighteen miles to the inch. On this are laid down the location of the earth-works, which lie chiefly along the courses of the streams, or about the interior lakes; and with a view to determining whether any order or general system could be detected in the aggregate of the series, their exact relative situation has been noted.

The explanations of the plates, and descriptions of the works, are full and distinct; with comparative references from one to another, when suggested by contrasts or analogies.

Very nearly the same series of forms is repeated in different localities, but with dissimilar arrangement, and often with slight, yet evidently intentional, variations of figure. To proceed from the simpler to the more elaborate and significant, they may be enumerated thus.

1st. Mere tumuli, of a conical shape, and slight elevation.

2d. Oblong moulds, (or oblongs, as Mr. Lapham terms them,) usually not more than three or four feet in height, of regular width, and of all lengths, in a straight line, from twenty feet to several hundred, and even a thousand.

3d. Embankments curved in crescent and serpentine forms.

4th. Embankments tapering uniformly in height and width from one extreme to the other, and terminating in a point often too fine to be traced.

5th. Similar tapering embankments, with two projections on one side near the larger end. These are called lizards, and are very numerous. They vary in the distance of the projections or *feet* from each other, and from the head, or large extremity; in the length of the tail, or smaller end; and in the fact that the latter is sometimes turned on one side, and sometimes rounded. The whole body is also occasionally deflected.

6th. The same general form, with projections on both

sides at the larger end, which is broader, but with a similar tapering tail or termination. These are called turtles. Although the tail is apt to be of an exceedingly disproportionate size and length, yet the part with lateral projections is said to present frequently a striking resemblance to the shape of that animal; and the tail is sometimes reduced or omitted.

7th. Oblong, or circular centres, with arms or wings extended on each side. These vary from simple crosses to figures with arms more or less bent; passing, by almost insensible gradations, into the shapes of birds and men, the head usually being omitted—a mode commonly adopted in Indian drawings, to distinguish the dead from the living.

8th. Representations of animals with more definite outlines and better proportions. Among them are bears, foxes, otters, &c.; and, upon the Wisconsin river, buffaloes.

All the varieties of figures and embankments are grouped in combination, either upon sloping declivities or elevated table land; and at the highest, or most prominent point, there is usually some one mound more lofty than the rest, from which they are all visible, that may, for aught that appears, have been intended to command a view of the works: although commonly regarded as a look-out, from whence to watch the approach of an enemy.

One or two instances only are mentioned, where animal mounds have been discovered in a solitary position. They are grouped in every diversity of connection: the conical tumuli and the rectilinear parapets being, at one time, interspersed among the figures, and clustered near them at another. The prevailing shape is that to which the name of "lizard" has been given; although its appearance in the drawings resembles quite as nearly the form of the knotted war club, or chichicoué. This figure, instead of being always raised like the others, is occasionally depressed or excavated. It has been observed that the head or principal

termination of the effigies almost invariably points either to the south, or in the direction of the nearest body of water.

These fanciful images are spread in great numbers throughout the river valleys below the latitude of Green Bay; with a singular exception stated by Mr. Lapham. He remarks that but few mounds, and those of no special importance, were found in the valleys of the Pekatonica and Sugar rivers, which constitute the principal lead region of Wisconsin; and that, for some unknown reason, the constructors of those works seem not to have occupied the mineral country.

It is as difficult to conjecture why these localities, which lie at the south, should have been avoided, as to account for a similar absence of earth-works in the upper districts at the north; or for the restriction of pictorial monuments within the territorial limits where they are alone supposed to exist.

Mr. Lapham disclaims all intention of indulging a disposition to theorize, or speculate. He declares his object to be to fulfil faithfully the office of Surveyor; to investigate the facts, and to report them as much in detail as may be necessary; leaving it for others to deduce from them, in connection with information derived from other sources, such general conclusions as a study of the whole subject may warrant.

We think he has accomplished his task with great thoroughness and artistic skill. He seems to have explored the entire field; to have industriously delineated every object of interest; and to have omitted no detail of drawing or description which could conduce to a clear understanding of the matters of which he treats. He has also proved, by numerous excavations, that those works which may be denominated pictorial, or emblematic, are destitute of relics. At least none have been found that can be regarded as original deposits.

It is proper that something should be said respecting the nomenclature, which, for want of convenient terms of greater preciseness, it has been necessary to employ.

The words mound, tumulus, embankment, monument, &c., are liable to convey an incorrect impression of the peculiar earth-works of Wisconsin. Such expressions, although no definite degree of elevation is implied by them, are apt to be associated with the idea of *height* as a characteristic, compared with the lateral dimensions of the object.

But the figures described by Mr. Lapham are mere relievos, or embossments, on the surface of the earth, so slight is their projection, especially in comparison with their horizontal extent. They seldom exceed four feet in height, and are sometimes to be measured by inches alone.

The qualifying epithets round, circular, conical, &c., used indifferently to distinguish mounds of a mamillary shape from those having flat, straight, or rectangular sides, and from imitative structures, are also defective in point of precision. The terms round and circular, might be applied to a ring, or disk, with equal propriety; and the forms denominated conical, often resemble more nearly the arch of a dome.

Where outlines and measurements accompany the descriptions, the chances of misapprehension of course are obviated; and we have no reason to believe that the narrative will not in all cases be found sufficiently clear and intelligible. At all events, a simple explanation is sufficient to prevent the possibility of mistake.

Respectfully submitted,

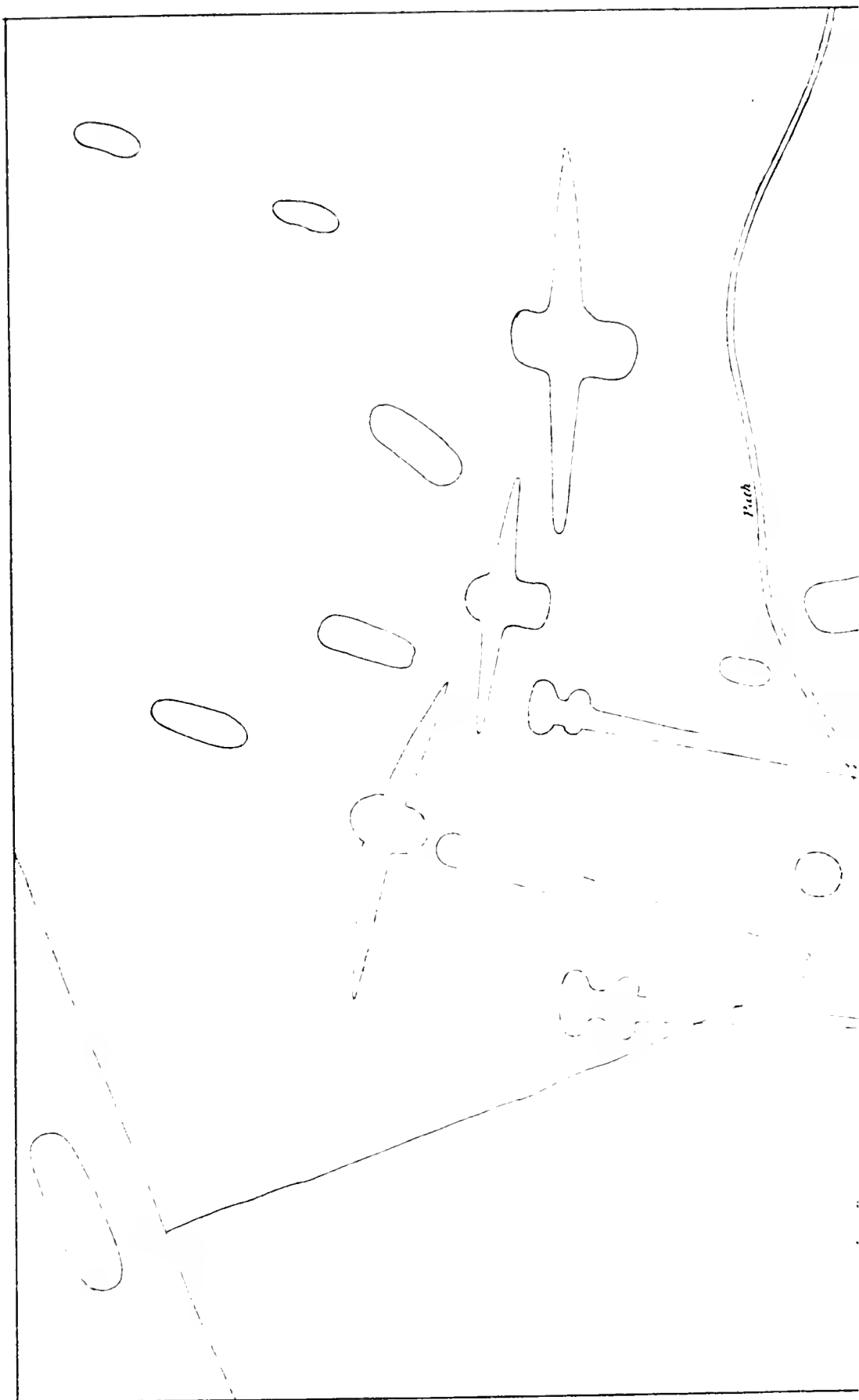
For the Committee.

S. F. HAVEN.

NOTE.

A few sketches have been selected from the drawings of Mr. Lapham, for the purpose of exhibiting some of the most prominent forms of the earth works; and also to illustrate the manner in which they are combined or grouped together.

The officers of the Smithsonian Institution having expressed a desire to print the Memoir in a form and style to correspond with the work on American Antiquities by Messrs. Squier & Davis, included in their series of "Contributions to Knowledge", the Antiquarian Society has consented to that arrangement.



W O O D S

GROUP

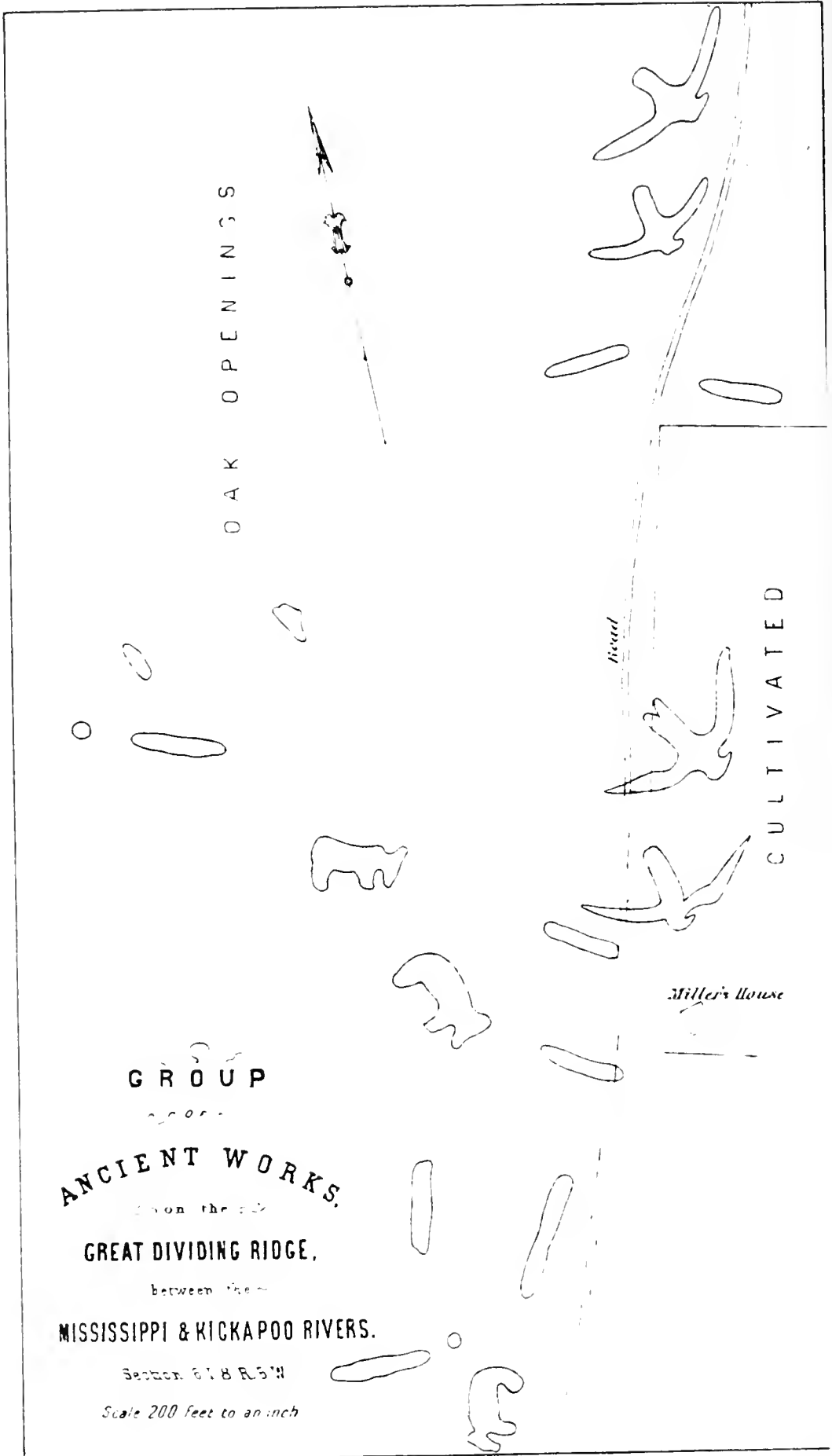
ANCIENT WORKS.

at

GRAWFORDSVILLE.

Scale, 100 feet to an inch.

TAUNTON & BRADFORDS LITH



OAK OPENINGS

CULTIVATED

River

Miller's House

GROUP

ANCIENT WORKS.

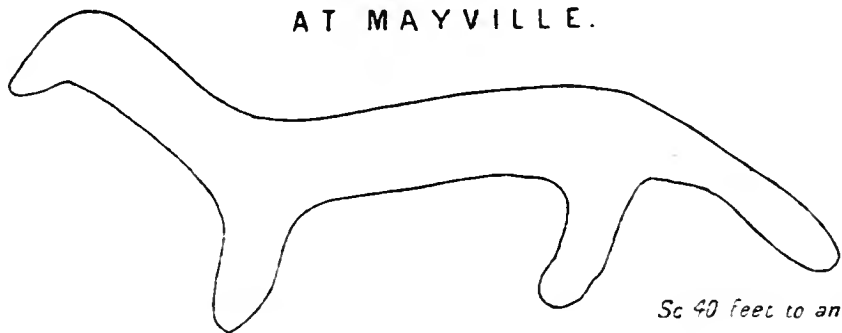
GREAT DIVIDING RIDGE,

MISSISSIPPI & KICKAPOO RIVERS.

Section 6 & 8 R. 5 N

Scale 200 feet to an inch

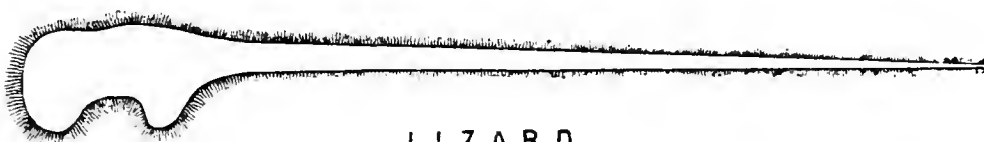
AT MAYVILLE.



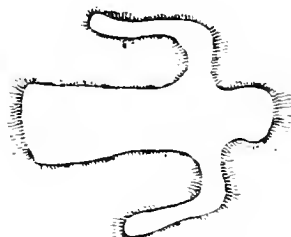
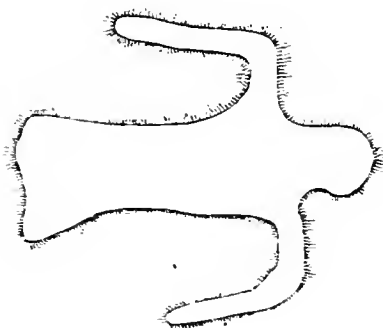
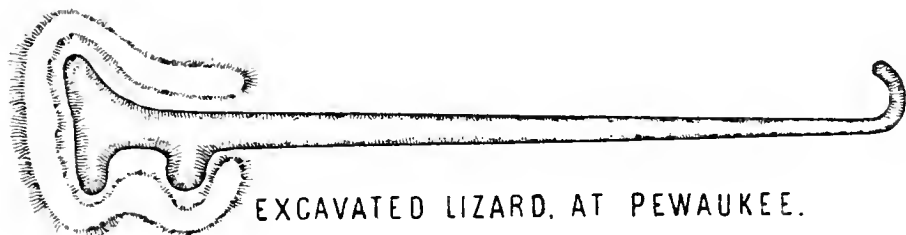
Sc. 40 feet to an inch

LIZARD.

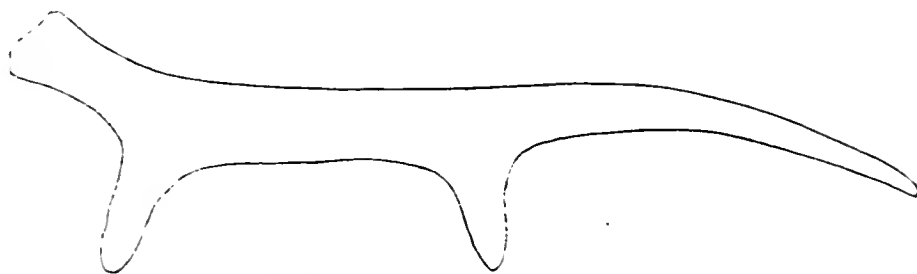
. Sc. 40 feet to an inch



EXCAVATED LIZARD. AT PEWAUKEE.



Sc. 40 feet to an inch.



SHERMAN'S ADDITION. MILWAUKEE.

Sc. 40 feet to an inch

MISCELLANEOUS FIGURES.

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